

# BENEFITS NEWS

An Information Publication for State of California Employees

## 2007 Governor's Medal of Valor Awards State Merit Award Program

Heroes are often defined as those that exemplify courage, selflessness, super human abilities and amazing grace. Most of us can instantly think of highly notable heroes, but did you know that many of your fellow State employees are also heroes? It's true, and since 1959, over 360 State employees have been honored through the Governor's Medal of Valor Awards program, which recognizes State employees for performing a heroic act to save another. Are you, or is someone you work with a hero? If your answer is yes, we really want to hear from you.

Last year Governor Schwarzenegger presented 42 State employees with Gold and Silver medals for their acts of bravery, courage and heroic performances. Held annually in conjunction with the Governor's Tree Lighting Ceremony in December, we are now soliciting nominations for this year's event. We hope that you will read and share the information contained in this newsletter with others within your department.

### Awards

There are two types of Medal of Valor Awards:

The *Special Service Award (Silver Medal)* – is given for an act of heroism by a State employee extending above and beyond the normal call of duty or service performed at personal risk to his/her safety to save human life or State property; and

The *Special Act Award (Gold Medal)* – is given for an extraordinary act of heroism by a State employee extending far above and beyond the normal call of duty or service, performed at great risk to his/her own life in an effort to save human life.

### Nomination Process

Making a nomination for an award is simple:

- Each nomination is completed on Form DPA 012 and submitted to your departmental Merit Award Administrator (MAA).
- Nominations are reviewed and verified by the MAA, approved by the nominee's department director, and then forwarded by the MAA to the Department of Personnel Administration (DPA), Benefits, Division, Medal of Valor Awards Program.
- Once reviewed and approved by DPA, notification of the award is sent to the MAA and arrangements for the presentation of the awards ceremony begin.
- To ensure sufficient time for review of nominations and preparation of the awards ceremony, nominations should be submitted as soon as possible.

## Examples of Past Awardees

Specific examples of past Awardees include:

Two *Investigators* from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control rescued a young man who was being kidnapped and choked by two suspects.

A *Fish and Game Warden*, while off duty, rescued an officer from being shot by grabbing a suspect's gun hand and tackling him.

A *Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Captain* and *Apparatus Engineer-Paramedic* rescued an elderly woman from a burning home under extreme fire conditions.

A *Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Chief* rescued civilians from certain death during the Paradise Fire.

A *California Highway Patrol officer* rescued a distraught and suicidal victim from a freeway over crossing.

A *California Highway Patrol officer* saved the lives of several people by apprehending a violent criminal, following a series of gun battles.

A *California Highway Patrol officer* rescued a Sheriff by leaving a position of cover to fire upon a suspect who was firing a semi-automatic rifle at the deputy, causing the suspect to cease firing and flee.

A *Department of Transportation Landscape Leadworker* rescued five children from a burning home.

A *Department of Transportation Maintenance Supervisor* and an *Equipment Operator* rescued the occupant of a vehicle from plummeting over an icy mountain cliff.

## Additional Information

Additional information and forms may be downloaded from the DPA Website at [www.dpa.ca.gov](http://www.dpa.ca.gov) (click on Benefits, Awards, Medal of Valor) or contact your departmental Merit Award Administrator.



## For More Information

### **DPA Benefits Division**

(916) 322-0300 ♦ CNET 492-0300

### **Group Legal Services Plan**

#### **ARAG North America**

1-866-762-0972

### **Dental Program**

(916) 324-0525 ♦ CNET 454-0525

### **Employee Assistance Program**

#### **MHN (Managed Health Network)**

1-866-327-4762

### **FlexElect Program**

(916) 327-6429 ♦ CNET 467-6429

### **Health Promotion Program**

(916) 324-9398 ♦ CNET 454-9398

### **Merit Award Program**

(916) 324-0522 ♦ CNET 454-0522

### **Pre-Tax Parking**

(916) 324-0526 ♦ CNET 454-0526

### **Rural Health Care Program**

(916) 327-1439 ♦ CNET 467-1439

### **Savings Plus Program**

1-866-566-4777

[www.sppforu.com](http://www.sppforu.com)

### **Travel & Relocation and**

#### **Vanpool Programs**

(916) 324-0526 ♦ CNET 454-0526

### **Vision Service Plan**

1-800-877-7195

### **Workers' Compensation Program**

(916) 445-9792 ♦ CNET 485-9792

## DPA Fax Numbers

### **Benefits Division**

(916) 322-3769 ♦ CNET 492-3769

### **Savings Plus Program**

(916) 327-1885 ♦ CNET 467-1885

### **TDD (Any unit in DPA)**

(916) 327-4266 ♦ CNET 467-4266

## Internet Address

[www.dpa.ca.gov](http://www.dpa.ca.gov)